

CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing or implant comprising an enzymatic compound or reagent that is effective in reducing the concentration of lactate in an aqueous solution in contact with said wound dressing.
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2. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim wherein the compound or reagent is bound to the surface of a solid wound dressing material.
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3. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim wherein said compound or reagent comprises an enzyme.
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4. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 3 wherein said enzyme comprises lactate oxidase.
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5. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim additionally comprising a compound capable of reducing H₂O₂ to H₂O and molecular oxygen.
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6. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 5 wherein said compound capable of reducing H₂O₂ to H₂O and molecular oxygen is a catalase enzyme.
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7. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim additionally comprising a chromogenic redox indicator compound or system for indicating the presence of H₂O₂.
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8. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 7 wherein said indicator compound or system comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-azino-bis- (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS); o-phenylenediamine (OPD);
30 3,3'-5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB); 0-dianisidine; 5-aminosalicylic acid (5AS); 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB); 3-amino-9-ethylcarbazole (AEC) and 4-chloro-1-naphthol (4CIN).
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9. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 7, wherein said indicator system comprises a peroxidase enzyme.

10. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim comprising a
5 solid material with amine, hydroxyl, sulphydryl, carbonyl or active hydrogen reactive chemistries.

11. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim comprising a proteinaceous, carbohydrate, plastic or polyurethane material.

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12. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim which is a solid dressing comprising a solid substrate having the enzymatic compounds or reagents dispersed thereon or therein.

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13. The wound dressing or implant according to any of claims 1 to 10 which is a semisolid ointment for topical application comprising a hydrogel selected from cellulose derivatives, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and hydrogels containing polyacrylic acid and mixtures thereof.

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14. The wound dressing or implant according to any one of the preceding claims additionally comprising a medicament.

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15. The wound dressing or implant according to any one of the preceding claims additionally comprising one or more immunological or other binding partners for one or more molecules present in a wound fluid.

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16. Use of an enzymatic compound or reagent that is effective to reduce the concentration of lactate in an aqueous solution for the preparation of a dressing or implant for the treatment of wounds.